(b) the number of vacancies of judges lying vacant out of the total sanctioned posts as on December 31, 1995, Court-wise;

(c) the number of vacant posts filled up out of them upto May, 1996, and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to fill up the remaining vacant posts, Court-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c). The requisite information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The process of consultation among the concerned Constitutional authorities for filling up the existing vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and various High Courts is on.

STATEMENT

S. No	High Court	Sanctioned Strength (As on 31.12.1995)	Vacancies	Appointments made during 1.1.96 to 30.5.96
1.	Allahabad	71	4	3
2.	Andhra Pradesh	36	-	-
3.	Bombay	54	13	12
4	Calcutta	48	6	-
5.	Delhi	31	3	2
6	Gauhati	17	3	4
7.	Gujarat	32	5	-
8	Himachal Pradesh	8	1	-
9	Jammu & Kashmir	11	1	-
10.	Karnataka	34	-	-
11	Kerala	25	7	9
12	Madhya Pradesh	31	7	4
13.	Madras	29	9	5
14.	Orissa	15	7	4
15	Patna	37	5	5
16.	Punjab & Haryana	37	8	7
17	Rajasthan	26	2	8
18.	Sikkim	3	1	-
	Total	545	82	63
II	Supreme Court	26	3	2

[English]

Investment Protection Agreement with Thailand

342. SHRI VINAY KATIYAR :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal for signing an investment protection agreement with Thailand is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The process of Negotiations on a Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPA) with the government of Thailand has been initiated.

(b) Negotiations on BIPA will be based on the Indian Model Text which includes, inter alia, protection of investments of either country in the other country, Most Favored Nation Treatment in respect of investments and investors, National Treatment for investments, settlement of investment disputes through international arbitration, compensation in case of expropriation/nationalisation and facility for repatriation of returns etc.

(c) Signing of this Agreement will depend on successful conclusion of negotiations with the Government of Thailand.

[Translation]

Outstanding Income Tax

343. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA :
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of income tax payers in the country against whom an amount of Rs 5 lakh or more is outstanding, State-wise;

(b) the period since when the said amount is outstanding and the total amount involve therein,

(c) the reasons for not recovering the said amount; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to recover the same?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The desired information is not available. However, the following information relating

to outstanding demand as on 31.12.1995 is given below :

(1) *Age-wise analysis of arrear demand of Corporation Tax/Income Tax*

(Rs. in crores)

(i) Over one year but less than 2 years	13069.57
(ii) Over 2 years but less than 5 years	4367 88
(iii) Over 5 years but less than 10 years	963 81
(iv) Over 10 years	512.29

(2) *Amount-wise analysis of arrear demand of Corporation Tax/Income Tax*

(Rs. in crores)

	No.	*Net Arrear*
(i) Cases upto Rs. one lakh	4624447	1641 61
(ii) Over Rs. one lakh but not exceeding Rs 10 lakh	89629	1080 09
(iii) Over Rs 10 lakh but not exceeding Rs one crore	8801	1502 83
(iv) Over Rs one crore	1372	5943 11

(3) *The information regarding dossier cases of Outstanding Demand exceeding Rs one crore is given below :*

	No. of cases	*Outstanding Demand* (Rs. in crores)
West Bengal	143	869 59
Maharashtra	493	13527 51
Delhi	167	1024 05
Punjab	14	57 57
Haryana	6	19 10
J & K	3	15 60
M P.	14	48 38
Gujarat	73	224.98
Rajasthan	15	68 70
Kerala	4	6 84
Andhra Pradesh	22	59 92
Bihar	11	73 73
Orissa	8	30 47
N.E R.	11	24 75
Karnataka	43	227.51
Tamil Nadu	72	246.53
U.P.	40	180.37

(c) The following are generally the reasons for the outstanding demand :-

(i) Demand not falling due

(ii) Demand claimed to have been paid but pending verification.

(iii) Demand stayed by Courts, Settlement Commission, Tribunal and I.T. Authorities

(iv) Demand for which instalments have been granted.

(d) Various actions prescribed under the Income-tax Act, e.g. attachment of movable and immovable properties of defauletrs, prosecution, imposition of penalties, detention in prison, appointment of receiver for management of defaulter's properties are taken for recovery of the outstanding demand. Besides, various steps are taken to effect recovery of demand including grant of instalments and where issues are locked up in appeal, appellate authorities are requested to dispose of the appeals expeditiously.

In the cases of arrears of tax due from Notified persons involved in security scam, as per provisions of the Special Court Act all properties, both movable and immovable belonging to the Notified person stand attached simultaneously with the issue of the Notification Therefore, in respect of all demands that have since fallen into arrear, the department has filed applications with the Special Court for issue of directions to the Custodian to release funds against the tax dues

Development of Industries

344 SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA .
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Government have signed any agreement with the Government of Japan for development of small scale and medium scale industry.

(b) if so, the salient features thereof, and

(c) the time by which the said agreement is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) . (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c). In view of (a) above, does not arise.